

Rena Moran
State Representative
District 65A
Ramsey



Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable Rep. Peggy Scott, Chair
Civil Law and Data Practices Policy Committee
437 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Rep. Tim O'Driscoll, Chair
Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee
559 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 8, 2018

Dear Representative Scott and Representative O'Driscoll,

Last year, on January 20, 2017, a hearing request for a resolution relating to the ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution (Moran - HF 356) was submitted to the Civil Law and Data Practices Policy Committee. Additionally, a hearing request for a bill to place a constitutional amendment question before Minnesota voters to establish full gender equality (Omar - HF 189) was submitted to the Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee on January 13, 2017. Neither bill has received a hearing.

Today is International Women's Day. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity, and both of the bills for which we have requested hearings seek to increase gender parity in our society and in our world.

The United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex and the only right it specifically affirms to be equal for women and men is the right to vote in the 19th Amendment. We need to move forward with an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution, and we must also establish clear gender equality in our Minnesota State Constitution.

The principle of gender equality is a basic one, contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all subsequent major international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which has been ratified by 187 other nations.



Gender equality under both US and Minnesota Constitutions continues to be timely, and a number of other nations have achieved constitutional gender equality already. It would also be timely to hold a hearing on both HF 356 and HF 189, now that they have been in the possession of your respective committees for over a year.

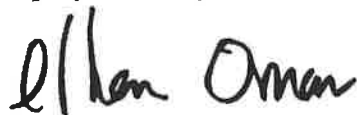
The citizens of the United States have been seeking full constitutional equality on the basis of sex since the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in 1923 and the women of Minnesota will not stop pushing for the recognition of full gender equality now or in the future.

We renew our request for hearings and votes on these equal rights and gender equality bills.

Sincerely,



Representative Rena Moran – District 65A
Deputy Minority Leader



Representative Ilhan Omar – District 60B
Assistant Minority Leader